

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,035,402 (Vaeth et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,092,202 (Veil et al.). The Vaeth reference, is directed to a virtual certificate authority and a method and apparatus for requesting a certificate and issuing a certificate in response to the request. (See for example column 1, lines 1-4). Applicants claim a completely different method and apparatus from that described in the Vaeth reference. For example, the Vaeth reference is specifically directed to the issuance of a certificate and the issuance request. For example in column 7 and 8 a requestor selects an option to request a certificate and in response a certificate authority presents the requestor with an HTML form to complete with information for verification against registration data held at the RA registration database. In other words, a user fills out an HTML form and the contents of that form are used to determine whether to issue a certificate. The information filled out in the form is compared to pre-stored information about the requestor. The form is held at and distributed by the certificate authority facility. The user completes the form, adds his public key and sends the certificate request and the data that they filled into the form to the CA facility. If the certificate issuance request information is verified, then a certificate is issued. This is a completely different system and method and approach from that claimed by Applicants.

For example, as noted in Applicants' preamble, the claim is directed to, for example, a method and apparatus for providing non-repudiation of transaction information that includes mark up language data. In other words, the transaction information includes marked up language data. Moreover, as noted in claim 1, the claim requires, among other things, presenting a copy of the temporarily maintained confirmation request form for display to a user. The office action cites Vaeth, column 8, lines 1-12 and 35-46 as allegedly teaching "digitally signing the

confirmation request form in response to confirmation data received in response to displaying the copy of the original transaction data". (See office action, page 2). However, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portion does not teach such an approach since the cited portion of Vaeth does not teach providing non-repudiation of transaction information and does not temporarily maintain confirmation request form in volatile memory nor present a copy of the temporarily maintained confirmation request form for display to a user since it stores no copy. In fact, the cited portion of the reference merely teaches that an initial HTML form for a certificate issuance, is maintained at a CA facility. This is the original HTML form. There is no presenting of a copy of a temporarily maintained confirmation request form. Moreover, there is no "confirmation request form" taught or suggested in the Vaeth reference since the form being described is a certificate issuance request form. There is no transaction confirmation form that is received from the server for digital signing by a digital signing process. As such, since Vaeth does not, among other things, present a copy of a temporarily maintained confirmation request form for display to a user, the claims are in condition for allowance.

Moreover, the claim requires digitally signing the temporarily maintained confirmation request form in response to confirmation data that is received in response to displaying the copy of the temporarily maintained original transaction data. There is no displaying of a copy of a temporarily maintained original transaction form nor the digital signing of the temporarily maintained confirmation request form disclosed in Vaeth as Vaeth deals with a completely different problem. Accordingly, Vaeth does not disclose digitally signed confirmation request form in response to confirmation data received in response to displaying the copy of the original transaction data as alleged in the office action.

Although the claims are allowable for the above reason alone, Applicants will address the additional application of the Veil reference. The Veil reference is directed to a method and system for secure transactions in a computer system and teaches the requirement of pre-verification of digital certificates and the use of certificate cache. Veil does not appear to be properly combinable with the Vaeth reference because they again deal with different problems. In any event, for purposes of argument, even assuming that the references were properly combinable, Veil teaches, in the cited portion, column 12, that storage of pre-verified digital certificates of transacting parties can save verification processing time and deals with the problem of apparently speeding up the verification of digital certificates which is not claimed by Applicants nor discussed in the Vaeth reference. In any event, Veil merely appears to teach that a trusted certificate cache is used that contains pre-verified digital certificates. Applicants do not claim such a cache. To the contrary, Applicants claim temporarily maintaining a confirmation request form in volatile memory associated with a client unit. The confirmation request form is not a pre-verified digital certificate as required by the Veil reference. Accordingly, the claims are in condition for allowance.

The above comments apply to all the independent claims and as such the independent claims are in condition for allowance.

Moreover, the dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter. For example, in claims 2, 3 and 4 all add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter since the cited references do not teach or suggest, among other things, a confirmation request form that includes form formatting information that are presented for display to a user for acceptance and for receiving a digital signature. The confirmation request form is requesting confirmation of a form that already includes transaction information for example as such this is not contemplated


by the cited references. In addition, the signed confirmation request form is compared to a stored copy of the confirmation request form as it existed prior to receiving a digital signature. Again, the cited references do not teach comparison of the forms as required. To the contrary, user data is compared that is entered into the form but not the entire form.

Moreover, the other independent claims such as claim 8 and 12 require the use of a non-proxy cryptographic application that is launched for example in response to a completed form submission request and sending to the non-proxy cryptographic application user entered data. There does not appear to be a teaching or suggestion of such a non-proxy cryptographic application that also digitally signs the transaction confirmation request. Moreover, the non-proxy cryptographic application as noted in claim 8, temporarily maintains the confirmation request form in volatile memory. Again, this is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that the claims be passed to allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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